



BROOKLYN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## **Gabriel Furman Papers**

**Call number ARC.190**

**Subject Index to Furman's *Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 12, Vol. 15, and Vol. 16***

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### Introduction

In 2010, Brooklyn Historical Society volunteer Woody Woodruff read the Gabriel Furman journals, totaling approximately 4,000 handwritten pages, for the purpose of documenting the content of each journal. Following is a summary of the content and layout for three of those journals, those titled *Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 12, Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 15,* and *Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 16,* followed by a more detailed subject index for each. (The summary and index for *Vol. 15* begins on page 4; *Vol. 16* begins on page 5. BHS does not hold Volumes 13 and 14.) The page numbers in the index indicate where an entry for a subject begins in the journal, not necessarily the page range for longer entries. The longer or most substantive content is noted in the summary comments.

Researchers should be aware that this content description is not necessarily comprehensive in that no attempt was made to index every specific entry or historical item Furman noted. In particular, emphasis in the indexing was placed on identifying subjects relevant to Brooklyn and New York history or those matters observed and commented on by Furman himself. Less emphasis was placed on indexing Furman's many entries recording facts of ancient European history or of Shakespearean plays, bibliographic references, aphorisms, etc. Further, the date range used in the description is based on the dates Furman made the entries to the journals, not to the dates of the historical items transcribed or summarized by Furman (e.g., a date range for a journal with transcriptions or other reference to colonial laws of the 1600s and 1700s will have a nineteenth century date range, not one reflecting the earlier centuries). Nonetheless, the description is intended to facilitate research use of the journals by describing the types of subject matter one will find in the journals and the specific location of the more notable and representative topics, again, especially for Brooklyn/New York research.

Researchers interested in getting a broader perspective on the entire set of Furman journals held by Brooklyn Historical Society, as well as other Furman archival material at BHS, should refer to the document *Guide to the Gabriel Furman Papers*, which is also available on-line in the Emma catalog under the entry for Furman.

Summary of content of *Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 12:*

Date range of journal: circa 1828-circa 1842. This volume consists almost entirely of notes and transcripts from archives, newspapers, magazines, and books, with only a few sections being sequentially dated journal or diary entries. The date ranges given are thus merely the dates of the earliest and latest entries that can be accurately dated.

Miscellaneous notes on history, law, superstitions, antiquities, books. A long series of notes on different North and South American Indian antiquities begins on page 377. A journal of a trip to Canandaigua, Niagara Falls and Buffalo – virtually the only personal material in this volume – begins on page 592.

Content terms/keywords for *Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 12:*

Adams, John Quincy	Some of his doggerel & comments on his attacks on Jefferson and “Black Sal.”	318
Antiquities	A long description of Indian antiquities.	377, 481
Antiquities, Indian	Mounds in St. Louis, with a diagram.	481
Baltimore	Growth of.	139
Barn raising	How neighbors get together for a frolic and to get big jobs done quickly.	183
Beekman	Notes on the family in New Amsterdam.	289
Bills of Credit	An essay on.	350, 467
Britain	Ancient legal documents of, transcribed.	26
Brooklyn	Distance to New York by various ferries.	262
Canada	Differences between the US and.	184
Canandaigua	Notes on a Furman lecture trip to, 1841.	592
Catholic Society	Letters to editors, opposing.	72
Christmas	Observations of, in New York, 1835.	335
Cincinnati	Description of.	139
Clay, Henry	Votes on Clay’s land bill.	131
Colden, Cadwallader	Report of the death of, February 7, 1834.	158
Courts	That they are too lenient.	298
Currency, Continental	Notes on depreciation of, 1777 – 1781.	241
Democratic Republicans	Resolutions of, 1836.	67
Dutch	Colonial policies of.	565
Egypt, Ancient	Miscellaneous notes on.	1
Executions	Various sentences of, 1712.	301
Flood myth	Traditions of in various cultures.	16
Gloom	Furman’s, October 1836. “... every thing is deranged and upside down.”	47

Indians	Massacre by, at Wyltwyck, 1663.	292
Kidd, William	Search for his treasure.	58
Lake Erie	Unnatural rise in the water level of, 1823.	235
Lewis, Meriwether	A detailed report of his death.	356, 583
Magician, Great	Notes on M. Adrien.	45
Manufacturing	How manufacturing in the South will help hold the Union together.	240
Massachusetts	Act concerning blasphemy.	127
Mormons	Reports that they are in arms (1838).	54
Mormons	Notes on.	114
New Amsterdam	State of, 1639.	198
New Amsterdam	Miscellaneous notes on.	226
New Amsterdam	Dutch records of, Furman letter to the Times.	125
New York	Trade statistics, 1832.	129
New York	Ancient shoreline of.	168
New York	A series of dated entries concerning New York, 1759 – 1791.	172
New York	Edict against prostitutes, 1820.	211
New York	Observations of Christmas in, 1835.	335
Nullification	A note on Georgia's nullification of the Supreme Court ruling concerning the Cherokees, 1832.	180
Park Theatre	Uses a looking glass instead of a curtain , 1823.	220
Population	Projections of.	147
Portents	Ominous times, evil portents. June 10, 1836.	63
Post office	Statistics on, 1790 – 1817.	229
Prices	Rail road fares, upstate New York, 1841.	602
Prostitutes	Edict against, in New York, 1820.	211
Quakers	Treatment of in New Amsterdam, 1657.	306
Revolutionary War	Notes on.	49
Revolutionary War	State contributions to the Continental army.	140
Robinson	Trial of, portrait of a woman appears in broken glass.	60
Rochester	As it was and as it is.	145
Shakespeare	Various notes on.	90
Slaves	Various sentences of death, 1712.	301
Speculation	Furman feels it's out of control, October 1836.	47
Statistics, miscellaneous	A collection of.	165
Steam power	How it has shortened distances.	223
Stuyvesant, Peter	Who his children married.	289
Supernatural	Furman believes it can't be dismissed outright.	65
Tobacco	Use as currency in Virginia and Maryland.	194

End of summary and index for *Vol. 12*. *Vol. 15* starts on next page.

Summary of content of *Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 15:*

Date range of journal: circa 1841-circa 1847. Long excerpts from Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary laws of New York; Miscellaneous historical notes; journal of a visit to the Tuscarora Indian reservation, Niagara Falls and Buffalo. Entries end at page 251, and the volume finishes with several hundred blank pages.

Content terms/keywords for *Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 15:*

Clubs, curious	In England.	4
Comets	As the source of deluges and disasters.	116
Continental Congress	Pay of members of.	156
Fly Market	New York. History of.	46
Furman, Gabriel	Journal of, from November 3, 1841.	129
Indians	Evidence of an arrow manufactory on Long Island.	183
Jersey City	Furman visits, 1841.	129
Lakes	Rises and falls in levels of.	243
Leisler, Jacob	Notes on.	170, 179
Natural phenomena	Fish fall from sky.	124
New Amsterdam	Notes on.	81, 97
New York	Revolutionary laws in.	19
New York	Furman describes walk around, 1841.	122
New York	Notes on Revolutionary history of.	122
New York	A description of city records that Furman has seen.	137
New York	Debates about paying debts of, 1711.	193
New York	Salaries of government officials of.	206
New York	Various legal notes on, circa 1710.	203
Perfectionists	Religious group; notes on.	11
Slaves	Prohibited from harrowing oysters, in New York, 1714.	203
Steam boats	First ones on Hudson River.	41, 52
Tower of London	Details of a fire in.	146, 159
Trial by Water	Description of.	1
Trinity Church	Notes on.	49, 51, 64, 134
Tuscarora	Furman visits their reservation near Niagara Falls.	222

End of summary and index for *Vol. 15*. *Vol. 16* starts on next page.

Summary of content of *Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 16*:

Date range of journal: circa 1841-circa 1842

Notes on climate change, superstitions, history; multiple entries on Dutch New Amsterdam; signed letter (1842) from Governor William H. Seward tipped in after page 48, concerning Furman's introduction to *Natural History of New York*; Furman's history of book printing in New York, for the *Natural History* (never used); long transcript of a description of explorations in the South Sea by the USS Peacock. There is nothing of a personal nature in this volume except the correspondence with Seward. The volume includes numerous blank pages, both interspersed with text and at the end.

Content terms/keywords for *Notes and Memoranda, Vol. 16*:

Bogardus, Everardus	Law suits against.	215
Climate change	Arguments that it has happened.	1, 158, 165
Coinage	Bills concerning.	193, 194
Croton River Aqueduct	List of documents concerning.	249
Currency	Law concerning, New York, 1709.	45
Currency	Origins of paper money, starting with Marco Polo and China under the Moguls.	123
Evil eye	Discussion & history of.	25
Illiteracy	In Virginia.	235
Kidd, Captain	Legislation concerning, 1693.	37, 43
Leisler, Jacob	Orders to a privateer and other proclamations.	185, 267
<i>Natural History of New York</i>	Notes concerning, with a signed letter from Governor William H. Seward tipped in.	48
New Amsterdam	Indian names of various places.	171
New Amsterdam	Dutch deeds of land in.	173
New Amsterdam	Laws of, 1683 – 4 – 5.	177, 253
New Amsterdam	Slaves in (1638).	201, 210
New Amsterdam	Immorality in.	201
New York	Census of, 1731 – 1811.	36
New York	History of book printing in, prepared for the <i>Natural History of New York</i> .	49
New York	Laws of, prior to 1691.	273
Seward, William H.	Signed letter from, tipped in.	48
Shakespeare, William	Notes on the proper spelling of his name; his education.	129, 139
Slaves	In early New Amsterdam (1638).	201, 210
South Sea	Notes from an exploring expedition by the USS Peacock, 1841.	277

Superstitions	Magicians who pretend to be for real, and other notes.	19, 30
Virginia	Illiteracy in.	235